



SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1970

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REPORT PRESENTED BY

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SALCOMBE
REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1970

P r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the Health of the District during 1970. Included in this Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

Statistics

The Registrar General estimated the population to be the same number as last year, namely 2,420 persons. There were 17 more deaths than births. The Standardised Birth Rate at 9.8 per thousand population is well below the National Rate of 16.0 and the Standardised Death Rate at 10.3 per thousand population is below the National Rate of 11.7. There were two infant deaths and because of the small number of related live births there is an unnaturally high Infantile Mortality Rate of 111.0 as against the National Average of 18.0.

Environmental Health

Visit of Mass X-Ray Unit

Following a request by the Council, the Mass X-Ray Unit made a special visit to Salcombe in May 1970. In my opinion support for the visit by members of the general public was disappointing and I question whether such special visits in the future might be justified. A summary of the results is as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number examined	88	117	205
Abnormalities detected	4	5	9

Tuberculosis cases	0	0	0
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Non-Tuberculous Cases:-

Acquired Cardiac Lesion	2	3	5
Bronchiectasis	0	1	1
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the lungs	1	0	1
Chronic Bronchitis	1	0	1
Dorsal Scoliosis	0	1	1

Analysis of those attending:-

Doctors Cases	0	2	2
Contacts of Tuberculosis	3	8	11
Public	85	107	192

Of this total 173 persons had previously been X-Rayed.

Enteritis at a camp.

In August a number of persons at an Inter-schools Camp at Salcombe went down with attacks of vomiting, and, in some cases, diarrhoea as well. The illness lasted about 12 - 24 hours. Hygiene at the Camp was good, and a laboratory test done on a sample collected from a patient yielded negative results. The outbreak ceased after a couple of days. When it began it was considered possible that 25 or 30 persons might need treatment in hospital, so I made tentative arrangements with the Regional Hospital Board for that number of beds to be available if needed. I am grateful to the Hospital Authorities for their kind co-operation.

Salmonella infection at a farm

In March 1970 a number of calves and a cat at a farm in the District were found to be suffering from Salmonellosis. One calf died. This disease which causes an enteritis with scouring in farm animals can also be transmitted to human beings either by direct contact with infected animals or by drinking infected raw milk. Fortunately no human illness occurred in this instance.

I wish to thank Members of the Council and my Colleagues on the Staff for all their help during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1971.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

PART-TIME DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER HEALTH

MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.Ch., BSc., D.P.H.,

LOCAL OFFICE

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
SALCOMBE, Devon.

Tel: SALCOMBE 2281/2

CENTRAL OFFICE - MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Area No. 5, South West Devon,
Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
8 Plymbridge Road,
PLYMPTON, Plymouth PL7 4LG

Tel: PLYMOUTH 36644

MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLERK

Miss G. PROWSE

Tel: PLYMOUTH 36644

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - SALCOMBE

G. ROTHWELL, ESQ., M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Tel: SALCOMBE 2281/2

CLERK TO THE SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mrs G.D. KILLICK

Tel: SALCOMBE 2281/2

Matters affecting Public Health are dealt with by the Public Health Committee and by the full Council.

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VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1970.

Table 1

Figures for 1969 are shown in brackets

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Salcombe Urban District

2,420 (2,420)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	...	-17	(+10)
Migration in or out	...	...	...	+17	(-20)
Total increase or decrease	...	...	...	NIL	(-10)

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Salcombe Urban District in Acres

1,297

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books

1,114 (1,091)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	...	0.859	(0.841)
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	...	1.865	(1.865)
Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	2.172	(2.218)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	...	...		145

Rateable Value of the District 1st April

£128,596 (£124,813)

Sum represented by a Penny Rate

£50. (£497)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1970.

Table 2

Figures for 1969 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS:

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 9.8 (19.8)
Area Comparability Factor for Births 1.33 (1.33)

Number of Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	9	9	18
Legitimate	9	9	18
Illegitimate	0	0	0
<u>Number of Stillbirths</u>	0	0	0

DEATHS:

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 10.3 (7.1)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths 0.71 (0.66)

Number of Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All ages -			
All ages - Total	21	14	35
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	2	0	2
Number under 4 weeks of age	2	0	2
Number under 1 week of age	2	0	2
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births			... 111.0 (38.4)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate 16.0 (16.3) Death Rate 11.7 (11.9)

Infant Mortality Rate 18.0 (18.0)
 (Infants under 1 year of age)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1970

Table 1

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

Table 2

Incidence by Quarters

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1st.</u>	<u>2nd.</u>	<u>3rd.</u>	<u>4th.</u>
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	1	0	0	0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

Sect. 47 of 1948 Act

No statutory action was necessary for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Sect. 50 of 1948 Act

No burials took place under this section of the Act.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1970

					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
B19 (3)	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, STOMACH	...	...	1	0	1		
B19 (4)	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INTESTINE	...	...	0	1	1		
B19 (6)	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LUNG, BRONCHUS	...	...	1	0	1		
B19 (8)	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, UTERUS	...	...	-	2	2		
B46 (3)	MENTAL DISORDERS	...	...	...	0	1	1	
B28	ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	...	...	...	7	3	10	
B29	OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	...	...	...	0	1	1	
B30	CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	...	...	...	3	3	6	
B46 (6)	OTHER DISEASE OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	...	...	...	3	0	3	
B32	PNEUMONIA	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
B33 (1)	BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	...	...	...	2	0	2	
B46 (7)	OTHER DISEASE OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	...	...	...	1	0	1	
B34	PEPTIC ULCER	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
B46(10)	DISEASE OF SKIN, SUBCUTANEOUS TISSUE				0	1	1	
B44	OTHER CAUSES OF PERINATAL MORTALITY				2	0	2	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES					21	14	35	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITALS

Salcombe is served mainly by the Plymouth and District Hospital Management Committee. There are large general hospitals at Plymouth and the South Hams Hospital at Kingsbridge, which is a general practitioner hospital, has 13 beds. Maternity beds and Geriatric beds are provided at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes, under the Torquay Hospital Management Committee.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Devon County Council provides the following services:-

Domicillary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, an ambulance service, vaccination and immunisation procedures.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL SERVICES

The Area Director of Social Services operating from the Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes, Telephone: TOTNES 3665, is responsible for providing a social work service under the Childrens' Acts, the Mental Health Act 1959 and the National Assistance Acts, to the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped and homeless persons and families. The Social Services Department also administers the Home Help Service, the Social Work Service to Schools, the Occupational Therapy Services and Residential Homes and Centres.

4. LABORATORY SERVICES

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice-cream, are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

5. MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

There are three general medical practitioners and one dentist at Salcombe. There is also a new HEALTH CENTRE in Shadycombe Road, Telephone: SALCOMBE 2284.

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1970.

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the Salcombe Urban District received water supplied by the South West Devon Water Board. Regular samples of the supply are taken by the Board to ensure its wholesomeness. There has, therefore, been no cause for any action to be taken by the Department in this connection.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There has been no change during the year with reference to the disposal of sewage. The existing arrangements are as follows:-

Batson Area: Untreated sewage from Lower Batson is discharged on to the foreshore near Batson Green.

Salcombe: Untreated sewage discharges from eighteen outfalls along the foreshore between Island Street and Woodcot.

North Sands: Untreated sewage discharges at a point on the foreshore adjoining the Castle.

South Sands: Untreated sewage is discharged at a point near Splat Cove.

Although the unsatisfactory conditions along the foreshore on the Salcombe side of the Estuary prevailed during the year, it is likely that these will end very soon. A commencement was made on the new sewerage scheme in September and providing satisfactory progress is maintained the scheme should come into operation towards the end of 1971 or early 1972. The scheme provides for the construction of a large retention tank on land adjoining the Creek Car Park, together with a trunk outfall sewer with a discharge point towards the southern end of the town near the centre of the Estuary. Comminuted sewage will only discharge on the ebb tide when the flow in the Estuary is at its greatest velocity.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of domestic and trade refuse throughout the district has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. Refuse is collected weekly from all the premises in the area and daily, twice or three times per week, from hotels and business premises on request.

The use of paper sacks has continued and these and their holders are supplied to many hotels, shops, etc., in the district. They have considerably improved the collection service and conditions under which refuse is stored prior to collection.

The existing arrangements whereby refuse is tipped at Molescombe Quarry, in conjunction with adjoining Authorities, has continued very satisfactorily. The volume of refuse is increasing annually, and the

present vehicle and staff are just able to cope with current demands particularly during the summer months when these are at the greatest. During the year periodic collections of bulky refuse are also collected when a request is made for this to be done.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Routine inspections are made throughout the year of food premises in the district and, where necessary, informal action is taken to ensure compliance with the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The standard of food hygiene, is, on the whole, satisfactory. Seasonal staff are engaged during the summer months at hotels and other business premises, many of whom have no previous knowledge or experience of food hygiene. It is not possible to inspect all the hotels and guest-houses during the year, the many duties carried out by your staff usually results in Food & Drugs inspection being considerably cut down but, when possible, inspections are made, advice is given to food handlers and improvements obtained.

Routine inspections of food shops and restaurants are also made as often as possible and it is pleasing to note the co-operation one receives from many of the occupiers of these premises.

Samples of ice-cream are taken from the retail suppliers. These were reasonably satisfactory but where necessary advice on sterilisation and cleaning was given.

Small quantities of unsound food have been condemned after being voluntarily surrendered. This is mainly tinned foods which have been obviously unfit.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

Reinspections have been made of premises covered by the provisions of this Act, from time to time. Shops and Offices in Salcombe usually employ very few staff and any contraventions of the Act are dealt with on an informal basis.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT - STATUTORY NUISANCES

It is pleasing to note that very few complaints are made to the Council of statutory nuisance. Any matter which is reported is usually dealt with on a personal and informal basis and results in the nuisance being abated with the least possible delay.

It has not been necessary to take any formal action in this respect.

CARAVAN SITES CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is only one licensed camping site within the Urban District and the conditions imposed in granting the licence have now been complied with. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the camp is maintained in a satisfactory manner. There are 40 caravans and 10 tents.

Practically the whole of the Urban District is within an area covered by an Article 4 Direction under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act and regular inspections of the district are carried out to ensure camping is not taking place within the areas covered by the Direction.

HOUSING

The Housing conditions of the district are satisfactory - there being no unfit houses.

The construction of 16 new dwellings, 10 being one bedroom flats for elderly people, was completed during the year. The number of persons on the Council waiting list has been reduced, and it is not expected that there is a need for further Council house development in the foreseeable future.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following is a summary of information required in respect of the year 1970. A total of 26 inspections was made in respect of 33 premises listed in the Factories Register.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power
(Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6)

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Written Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power
(Section 7)

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Written Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

(iii) Other Premises under the Act
(Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works or Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworkers' Premises)

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Written Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

2. Cases in which Defects were found NIL

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 133 & 134)

There are no registered Outworkers.

